

PENTAGON PAPERS DEFENSE

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Statement by William G. Florence "The Industrial Security Program"

The following is a statement prepared by William G. Florence, the former chief of Air Force security, regarding the industrial security program. Mr. Florence is presently a consultant to the defense in the Pentagon Papers trial.

"The Department of Defense Industrial Security Regulation applies to operations involving the procurement of supplies and services from industrial firms and other civilian sources. Such sources are called contractors.

The regulation is a complicated mass of procedures which are invoked if a contractor is to be given, or is to generate information assigned a security classification mark of CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET, or TOP SECRET. However, the information need not be of any importance to the national defense.

The stated purpose of the industrial security regulation is to assure the safeguarding of information with a classification mark that is in the hands of industry. In accomplishing the safeguarding, disclosure of the information must be made to persons everywhere who are authorized to have access to it. Authorized persons include foreign contractors and other citizens of foreign countries as well as citizens of the United States. Minimum age objectives are: 16 years for access to CONFIDENTIAL; 18 years for access to TOP SECRET or SECRET.

If a contract will involve access to information with a classification mark of CONFIDENTIAL or higher, procedures in the Industrial Security Regulation require that a standard Department of Defense security agreement be signed by the contractor. The agreement includes an attachment called the Department of Defense Industrial Security Manual. It is a one-inch thick book containing innumerable detailed security procedures.

A contractor prepares a comprehensive manual himself to apply the Department of Defense procedures to his location and to tell his employees what to do about security. He must adhere to the Defense Department rules in organizing his employees and making physical arrangements in his plant to assure the safeguarding of contractual information with a classification mark. This is required even if only a one-page document marked SECRET is involved.

Among the multitudinous detail in the Industrial Security Manual are procedures for:

- 1) Getting consent of the government before giving an employee access to information marked TOP SECRET or SECRET, and, in some cases, information marked CONFIDENTIAL.
- 2) Putting classification marks on documents and other materials as designated by the government.
- 3) Exchanging information with a classification mark between persons authorized to have access to it, and for precluding disclosure of the information to other persons.

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- 4) Storning, transmitting, reproducing and destroying material bearing a classification mark.
- 5) Reporting to the government the name of each employee involved in a violation of security procedures, and the disciplinary action taken against him.

The entire cost of a contractor's security operation is paid for by tax dollars."